

spirit, tirelessly working to bring joy or aid to others. As a bartender at the beloved Eliot Lounge in Boston, Mr. Leonard maintained an emergency fund to assist members of the community in need. In 1991, he co-founded the annual Falmouth Walk, which raised \$28,000 for local charities in 2011 alone. Each November, Mr. Leonard has sought to honor his fellow veterans by commemorating the Marine Corps' birthday with a reception at his restaurant. Over the years, Mr. Leonard has dedicated himself to countless charitable causes.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Tommy Leonard for his outstanding contributions to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. His passion has made a lasting impact on the Falmouth community, forging bonds between residents and attracting visitors from across the globe. I ask that you join me in thanking Mr. Leonard for a lifetime of service and advocacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed the votes on Monday, April 15, 2013.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 103, H.R. 1162—GAO Improvement Act, "yea" on rollcall No. 104, H.R. 882—The Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2013 and "no" on rollcall No. 105, H.R. 249—Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act.

TRIBUTE TO THE TIBBITS OPERA HOUSE

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater, Michigan, a cultural icon in my district that has excelled in arts and entertainment for 130 years. Having recently completed a stunning restoration of the building's facade, the community will be holding a celebration this weekend to dedicate the restoration and tell the story of the people that preserved it.

Built in 1882, Tibbits is the second oldest operating theater in Michigan. The 499 seat venue operates year round, enriching the area with professional and community theater programs, community events, concerts and youth theater productions. Strategically located on the primary thoroughfare between Chicago and Detroit, it has hosted many notable performers and acts over the years, ranging from P.T. Barnum and John Philip Sousa to Mickey Rooney and Jeff Daniels. From early vaudeville performances to a spell as a movie house, Tibbits has served as the cultural center of the area.

As early as the 1950s, locals recognized the need to safeguard this treasure for future generations and formed a group committed to the preservation of the theater. After falling into

disrepair and facing the threat of demolition, a group raised funds to pay off owed taxes. Further updates and improvements have taken place over the years, the most impressive being the authentic restoration of the building's facade. Using photographic and field evidence, craftsmen meticulously restored the theater to its original French Second Empire design using locally selected materials. The effort has certainly paid off, earning a 2013 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation. But even more important than the accolades, the project ignited an enthusiasm among the residents, businesses and other area organizations, who gave of their time and finances to support the restoration. The renewed sense of pride displayed by the community has been apparent, and I'm heartened by their appreciation for the past and hard work to ensure its preservation for future generations.

Today, Tibbits Opera House continues to be a landmark that has drawn visitors to Coldwater for many generations and I suspect, Mr. Speaker, will continue to do so. With an annual attendance of nearly 30,000, there is rarely an evening when the stage is not in use. I commend my colleagues to take a trip to Coldwater if ever possible and enjoy a show, and I look forward to joining the Tibbits community at this weekend's festivities to celebrate this testament to preservation.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JAMES SMITH ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that James Smith of Walbridge, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

James' offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming midshipmen Class of 2017. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

James brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2017. While attending St. Francis De Sales High School in Toledo, Ohio, James was on the President's List, recognized as a Student of Excellence, and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Throughout high school, James was a member of his school's wrestling and crew teams and earned varsity letters in both sports. In addition, James participated in the 2012 Model United Nations and the 4.5 Poverty Immersion Experience. I am confident that James will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James Smith on the accept-

ance of his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that James will excel during his career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

HONORING ROBERT EARL HOLDING

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment today to recognize and honor Robert Earl Holding, a man who throughout his life influenced Idaho and the West significantly. He was a veteran, a civil engineer, a businessman, a husband of 64 years, and a father of three. He passed away on April 19th, at age 86, after a long and rewarding life.

Among his many accomplishments, Earl Holding turned a struggling motel into a hugely successful chain of ski resorts and hotels, and owned Sinclair Oil Corporation. He acquired Idaho's Sun Valley Resort, and turned it into a world-class destination and a pillar in Idaho. He also was a key figure in attracting the 2002 Winter Olympics to Salt Lake City. Most of all, however, he loved the West.

Perhaps his most positive impact in Idaho began in 1977 when he bought the Sun Valley ski resort in central Idaho. He invested millions of dollars into Sun Valley, making it one of the most famous ski resorts in the United States. Today Sun Valley remains one of the most popular destinations in Idaho and a first-class resort for all seasons.

Mr. Holding is a true example of the American dream, rising from the hardships of the Great Depression to become one of the most successful business people in the world. Although we have lost a famous entrepreneur, a family man, and an American, we won't forget Robert Earl Holding, nor his many contributions to Idaho and the West.

HONORING DR. ROBERT PRICE

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Dr. Robert Price, Superintendent of the Empire Union School District, who is retiring after many years of outstanding service to our community.

Dr. Price began his teaching career in Turlock in 1973. In November of 1981, he received his first administrative assignment as Assistant Principal at Monte Vista Middle School in Tracy. In July of 1982, he was appointed Principal of Monte Vista Middle School; and in 1987, he was appointed Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services in Tracy and served as Interim Superintendent for one year. Dr. Price is concluding his career at Empire Union School District after 20 years as Superintendent.

Dr. Robert Price is a veteran in the integration of technology into the educational process. He is a founding TICAL Cadre member